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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9269

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE WINNERS IN PHU YEN

REF: SAIGON 7022, SAIGON 9171

1. REFTELS REPORTED ON THE CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO PHU YEN LOWER HOUSE SEATS. THE WINNERS WERE:

A. HUYUN DIEU, 42, 17,883 VOTES, BUDDHIST, CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, DIRECTOR OF BO DE (BUDDHIST) HIGH SCHOOL, AND PROMINENT PHU YEN BUDDHIST LAYMAN. DIEU HAS A RECORD OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN BUDDHIST "STRUGGLE" MOVEMENT IN THE SPRING OF 1966. HE WITHDREW

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FROM THE CONSITTUENT ASSEMBLY RACE, PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO THE BUDDHIST CALL TO BOYCOTT THOSE ELECTIONS. SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, DIEU HAS DISPLAYED REMARKABLE FLEXIBILITY, FIRST ADMITTING THAT THE BUDDHIST BOY-COTT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE AND THEN MOVING EVER CLOSER TO THE GVN POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES. DIEU APPARENTLY CONTINUED TO ENJOY THE BACKING OF AT LEAST SOME ELEMENTS OF THE MILITANT UBA LEADERSHIP IN SAIGON UNTIL RECENTLY, AS HIS NAME APPEARED ON THE UPPER HOUSE LIST (WHICH WAS LATER DISQUALIFIED), OF NGUYEN DUY TAI. THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, DIEU AGREED TO ACT AS PHU YEN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIEU-KY TICKET. THIS APPARENTLY ALIENTATED THE LOCAL UBA LEADERSHIP, WHICH THREW ITS SUPPORT TO PHAN KHAC SUU IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. DIEU REPORTEDLY HAD SUPPORT IN LOWER HOUSE RACE OF VARIOUS PROVINCIAL OFFI-CIALS, INCLUDING THE PROVINCE CHIEF. HE IS AN ASTUTE POLITICIAN AND VERY WELL KNOWN IN PHU YEN.

B. CAO VAN CHIEU, 61, 12,966 VOTES. CHIEU IS A FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN UNDER DIEM. HE WAS HEAD OF VIET NAM PRESS BUREAU IN PARIS 1951-55. ALTHOUGH NOT

A CATHOLIC, CHIEU APPARENTLY HAD CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM CATHOLICS. CHIEU'S BROTHER IS ALLEGED TO BE A HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL IN NVN AND CHIEU'S CANDIDACY WAS CHALLENGED ON THOSE GROUNDS (ARTICLE 11, SECTION 9 OF THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW); HE SUCCESSFULLY APPEALED HIS CASE TO THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL IN SAIGON. HE IS A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DA LAT.

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